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REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION

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BRISCOE COUNTY, TEXAS

scrapbook

Compiled by

Mrs. Forrest B. Doshier
1501 Rusk
Amarillo, Texas

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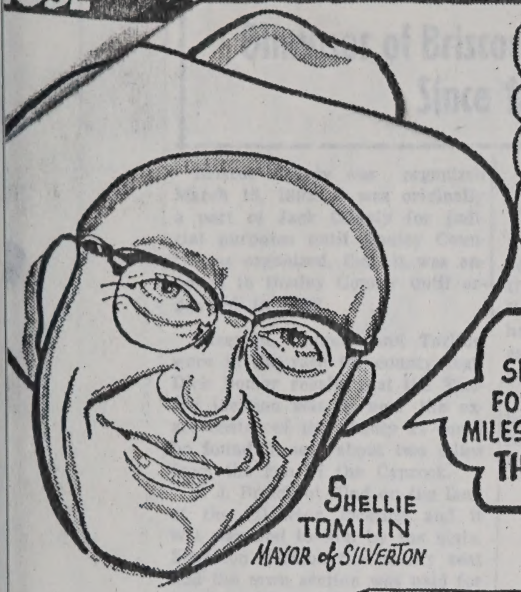
Rec'd May 17-1972

Dos
Genealogy

1892 BRISCOE COUNTY'S 70th Anniversary 1962



BRISCOE COUNTY ORGANIZED in 1892 and SILVERTON WAS ESTABLISHED as THE COUNTY SEAT WITH the ORGANIZATION of THE COUNTY -- 1962 IS THEIR 70th ANNIVERSARY!

SILVERTON SALUTES BRISCOE COUNTY'S SEVENTY YEARS of PROGRESS and THE FRIENDLY FOLKS WORKING TOGETHER in IT'S 887 SQUARE MILES of FERTILE SOIL for GREATER ACHIEVEMENTS.. **THANKS to ALL OUR NEIGHBORS!**

SHELLIE TOMLIN
MAYOR of SILVERTON

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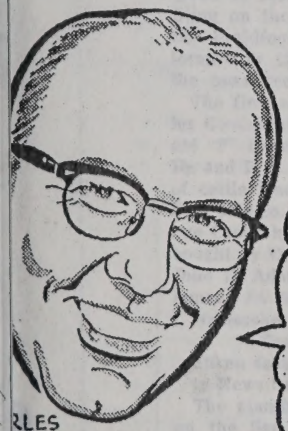

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CHET,
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IT'S APPRECIATION TIME in BRISCOE COUNTY as WE ROLL OUT THE WELCOME MAT FOR THE MOST IMPORTANT FOLKS in THE WORLD -- OUR NEIGHBORS.. for THEIR SMILES, UNDERSTANDING, PATIENCE, CONSIDERATION and PATRONAGE... THAT BUILDS OUR GREAT NATION... KNOW THEM BETTER in 1962 - THANK YOU!

MARY ANN SARCHET,
EDITOR-CO-PUBLISHER

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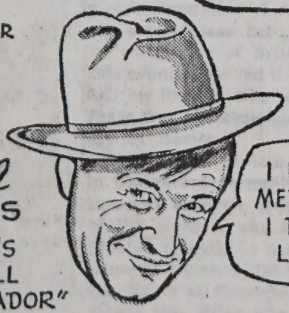

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I NEVER MET A MAN I DIDN'T LIKE.

BRISCOE COUNTY NEWS

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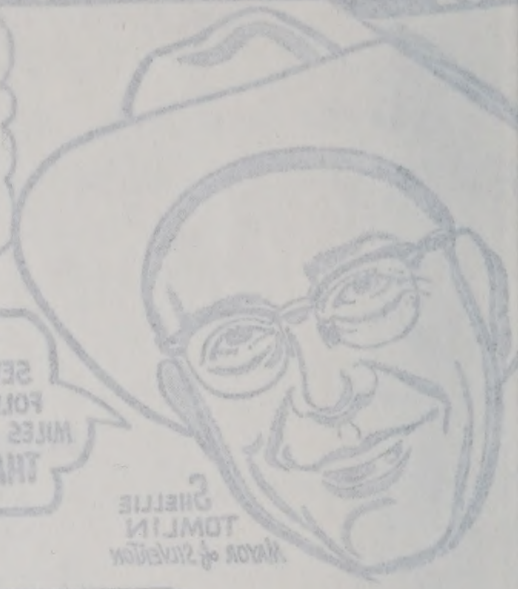

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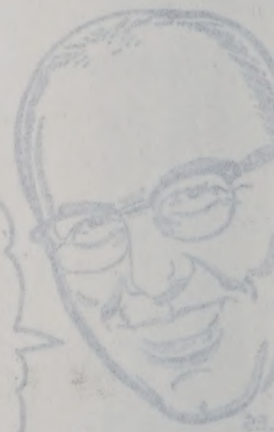

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Namesake of Briscoe County Commemorated

Taken from the Briscoe County News issue of April 2, 1930.

The planting of a live oak tree on the San Jacinto Battleground in commemoration of Andrew Briscoe, early Texas hero, calls back the early days of Briscoe County. This county received its name from Andrew Briscoe, who fought in the Texas War of Independence in 1836 against Mexico.

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Newspaper's History

By Clyde Thomas for the Briscoe County News of June 12, 1925.

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Other papers that old settlers still have copies of include the Silverton Light, of which there is a copy dated June 9th, 1894. This was a four-page, six-column paper edited by J. G. Davidson. It contained much local news and a large amount of local advertisements as well as a number of ads from Amarillo firms. There is a copy of the Silverton Courier dated October 7, 1897, whic his exceptionally well edited by Benj. Smith. It seems more historical because of the fact that it carries much news about the Spanish-American war, which was then in progress. Another paper was the Silverton Enterprise of which there is a copy dated July 17, 1903. It carries many advertisements from Clarendon firms because it was about this time that a passable road was constructed across the canyon between here and Clarendon.

The Stayer was founded in Silverton in July, 1897. It was a well printed paper which sometimes had four and sometimes five columns, and contained much local news and advertising. It was edited by R. W. Morgan.

In looking over these papers one finds the names of many people who are still residing in Briscoe County. The papers also boosted the Plains country and the editors were really far-sighted in stating that the Plains country would one day become the greatest agricultural land in the world. It is very interesting to look over the records of the country and trace its growth from a broad level plain with no apparent life to a well developed and thriving country where anything in the world can be grown. The old settlers of Briscoe County had faith in the possibilities of agriculture here and were willing to try to develop the county as is shown by some of the old relics of early agriculture still in evidence.

In the early days of the county, as found in reading the advertisements in the old newspapers, Amarillo, Estelline and Childress were the main trading points for the people of Silverton. At the time the county was organized, Amarillo was a town of only a few hundred inhabitants and all the goods brought to Silverton came from Estelline, which was only a little smaller than Amarillo. Canyon at that time did not have a railroad and neither did Floydada, Lockney or Plainview. All of these towns were organized but were of no size. Clarendon was an old town but at the time of the organization of the county there was no road between here and Clarendon. Two years after the county was organized, a passable freight road was built and after that much of the supplies came from Clarendon.

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BRISCOE COUNTY NEWS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 1962

Silverton (Briscoe County) Texas

VOLUME 54 NUMBER 4

All Around the Town

by Mary Ann Sarchet

March, 1962, will mark the 70th anniversary of Silverton and Briscoe County. In recognition of this fact and of the people who have been instrumental in the development of our county and city, we are now searching for historical material on early days in Briscoe County. It is our hope that we may be able to present short articles of interest in most of the issues of the Briscoe County News during 1962.

This week we are searching for the oldest living man and woman in Briscoe County. "Briscoe Bill", a character originated by artist "Hut" Hutson for use in connection with a series of features he is doing, would also like to discover the names of the man and woman who have lived the longest number of years in Briscoe County. We sincerely need your help in correctly determining who these people are.

Any contributions to our "History" series will be greatly appreciated. Credit will be given all contributors, and the items may be brought in or mailed in any time during the year; however, we are in need of articles at the present time with which to begin the series.

The first articles to be used beginning this week were written by Clyde Thomas for the Briscoe County News in 1925. There are a number of these which are devoted to stories about the lives of some of Silverton's earliest settlers. Any items which you have or may recall during the series will be appreciated either in article form or simply as "Letters to the Editor," if you wish.

We are really depending on the children of Silverton's pioneer families to add to our information on this subject. Articles on the founding and history of the churches are among the material which we need.

BRISCOE COUNTY NEWS PRESENTS—

1962 NEIGHBORS ON THE JOB ROUNDUP
KNOW the FIRMS and FOLKS you TRADE with BETTER

Glimpses of Briscoe County History Since 1892

By Clyde Thomas

Written for the June 12, 1925. edition of the Briscoe County News. This is the first in a series of articles about early days in Silverton and Briscoe County, and about the people who first settled here.

First Officers

Briscoe County, Texas, was organized on March 15th, 1892, and on that day Silverton was named the County Seat and preparations were made for the election of officers for the county. The first officers were:

County Judge—J. N. Stalbird, who now resides in Lockney.

County Treasurer—R. I. Hanna, who now resides in the state of Kansas.

Sheriff and Tax Collector—Miner Crawford, who still lives here.

County and District Clerk—T. L. Anderson, who still lives in Briscoe County, and who holds the same office at this time.

County Surveyor—Nat G. Waller, who died some 18 years ago at Lockney.

County Attorney—W. D. Fisher, who is now a prominent lawyer in Canadian, Texas.

County Tax Assessor—Oscar Reeves, who died several years ago at Plainview.

All of the first officers elected were single men at that time with the exception of Mr. Waller. The only ones of the first officers who are now deceased are Mr. Reeves and Mr. Waller.

Mr. Anderson and Mr. Crawford are the only two first officers who still reside in Briscoe County. Mr. Anderson, who was elected the first County and District Clerk, still holds that office, and Mr. Crawford, who was elected Sheriff and Tax Collector, recently served another term in that office.

First Courthouse

The first building used as a courthouse in Briscoe County was a little room south of the square, which had been built for a real setate office. It was a 14x16 feet in size. The courthouse was later moved from this building to another room on the west side of the square. This building was 12x20 feet. It was used as a courthouse until January 1, 1893, when the county officers moved into the old wooden courthouse, which served as a home for the official department of Briscoe County until torn down and replaced by the new brick building in the fall of 1922.

First Grand Jury

The first grand jury in Briscoe County convened in the spring of 1892. It consisted of the following men:

M. E. Hopson, who was visiting in Silverton not long ago.

A. P. Donnell, one of the most progressive old settlers and who still lives in Silverton and is doing his bit toward the progress of Briscoe County.

J. N. Randolph; A. C. Bomar, deceased, father of Jim Bomar, one of Silverton's present businessmen; J. B. Porter, who still resides in Briscoe County and who is one of the county's most progressive stock farmers; S. H. Smithee; Wm. Chambers; J. F. Reeves; J. R. Wright; E. P. Turner, who still resides in Briscoe County. Mr. Turner was foreman of the first grand jury that convened in Briscoe County; H. P. Gardner; G. W. Brown, father of Q. E. Brown of this place, and who now resides in Swisher County, between here and Tulia.

The first Jury Commission was composed of Henry Hughes, D. H. Sweeney and L. C. Fisher.

The first bailiff was J. B. Bryant; Riding bailiffs were Ed Crawford and Vernon Wilkerson.

The first District Court held in Briscoe County was in the little office building on the west side of the square. The presiding judge was H. H. Lawler and the District Attorney was D. B. Hill.

—To be continued Next Week—

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In the spring of 1891, Mr. Braidfoot called the men of the county together for the purpose of organizing a townsite company. He planned to patent section No. 20 and Block A and upon this site built a town. The organization was formed, officers elected and plans were made. H. J. Parks and W. L. Say surveyed the town and they were paid with town lots. Cedar pins were driven at the corner of each block.

The name, Silverton, was selected by Mrs. Braidfoot because she thought it was pretty. The town was surveyed and named, but the law required the erection of twenty houses or a delay of three years to see if the town would survive, before the section could be patented for a townsite. The directors gave each man a lot who would build a house on it and a building boom started. The houses were soon erected. The Townsite Company men were given equal shares in the remaining lots and were to pay $9.75 in order to get the patent.

Mr. Braidfoot received fifty-four acres in the northeast corner of Block 23 because he was the one who filed on the land. Each man paid his fee, and the money was deposited in the bank at Amarillo. A check, plus the proof of the houses, were mailed to Austin for approval, and they sent the patent. The stockholders then dissolved and the lots were divided. Tickets for the lots were placed in a box and each drew one upon which was designated his lot. The deeds for the lots were then made.

As Briscoe County was attached to Donley, a petition was presented to the Commissioners Court of that county for an election for the purpose of organizing Briscoe County and to elect county officials.

* * *

Briscoe County was organized March 15, 1892, while a snowstorm raged. It was originally a part of Jack County for judicial purposes until Donley County was organized and then it had become a part of that county until its own organization. It is a part of the 47th Judicial District.

The name Briscoe was given to the county in honor of Andrew Briscoe, who was a captain in the Texas War of Independence in 1836. He was one of the signers of the Declaration, and when the Alamo fell, he wrote an account of it to send to the United States.

Captain Briscoe chartered and began construction of the first railroad in Texas, the Harrisburg and Brazos.

* * *

Soon after the organization of the county, Minor Crawford, the first elected sheriff, arrested two horse thieves who had come from New Mexico. The first District Court, held in August, 1892, found a bill against them. They were tried and sentenced to serve five years in the penitentiary.

* * *

The first records, kept in Donley County, were transferred and those kept for several years after the organization of the county, are on record in long hand. The deeds for the first land titles have marker references such as: a pile of rock, clump of hackberries, cottonwood, mound of stones, etc. The first records were filed at Jacksboro, in Jack County, from which Briscoe was coined in 1882.

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Glimpses of Briscoe County History Since 1892

Quite a struggle had gone on in Briscoe County in regard to the selection of a county seat. The three sites listed on the original ballot in 1892 were Silverton, Linguas and Tarlton.

Becky Thomas has submitted for inspection by the Briscoe County News a copy of a circular which was distributed by the Briscoe Joint Stock Company during the campaign which ensued before the election.

The content of the circular follows:

"THE LAST WARNING

"We have been dilligent in trying to expose the many frauds that the LINGUAS TOWN-SITE boomers are attempting to perpetrate upon the people of Briscoe County and as the result of our efforts in expsing their trickery and fraud, they have mved the location of said Linguas to THREE different sections. The first section upon which it was located, they claimed to have perfect title to, but under the light of our investigation, it was shown that they had no title whatsoever, and neither could they obtain any. They then went to section 77, claiming to the people that their title in same was perfect, but by referring them to the records we showed them that it was so heavily encumbered with mortgages it would be impossible to obtain title. They now have moved to to school section 70. The records of Donley County show that said section has never been filed on nor awarded to anyone, which, if correct, they can have no title in whatever or shadow of title.

"The plan adopted by the Linguas men to dispose their lots is contrary to law, being in the form of a lottery, and under the laws of Texas, said men are liable to indictment and prosecution fr establishing a lottery. On March 9th, the Linguas men claimed to have 2942 lots, but on March 12 they claimed to have increased the number of lots to 5000, which makes said town plat worthless and lots of no value, owing to their diminutive size. It will take three lots of such size to make one good lot; therefore, if they should fulfill their promise, they would only give an equivalent of 9 lots to the voter.

"At the Linguas drawing of town lots, there were between 25 and 50 drawings for parties that are not citizens of Briscoe County. This scheme was worked to mislead the voters of the county.

"The so-called bond given by D. Brunson is void—it is without any consideration—made to the citizens of Briscoe County and held by D. Brunson, the maker of the bond, and is no matter of record, while all transactions concerning Silverton are matters of record and therefore open to inspection and have been examined but never attacked on one single point.

"Fellow citizens: We appeal to your honor and the interest you have in the future welfare of your county and entreat you not to allow yourselves to be duped by such bare-faced frauds and tricks.

"Vote for the right—Vote for the people".

From this it can be seen that even in the early 1890's politics were heated.

Also submitted by Becky Thomas was the original ballot from which the slate of officers listed last week was chosen. The ballot is listed below, with the election winners indicated in bold face type.

County Seat of Briscoe County:

Silverton
Linguas
Tarlton

County Judge:
J. N. Stalbird

County Attorney: (write-in)
W. D. Fisher

Sheriff and Tax Collector:
Miner Crawford
B. F. D'Spain
T. B. Michael

County Treasurer:
R. I. Hanna
I. P. Vernon

County and District Clerk:
M. E. Hopson
G. F. Holland
J. R. Corry
T. L. Anderson
M. C. Gann
J. E. Grundy

Tax Assessor:
J. B. Bryant
J. B. Porter
O. T. Reeves
W. P. Brown
J. W. Hancock

County Surveyor:
Nat G. Waller
P. B. Oats

Precinct No. 3 Commissioner:
H. W. Savage

Justice of the Peace and Constable (both were write-ins)

Glimpses of Briscoe County History Since 1892

The Texas History Class of Silverton school contributed much to our knowledge of the history of Briscoe County with a book dedicated to the pioneers of Briscoe County, compiled chiefly by the members of the class during the spring of 1936. they were:

Arlis White, Albert White, Virgil Crow, Jack Blocker, Garner Guest, John H. White, Jr., Jackie Bomar, Mildred Deavenport, Harley Redin, Worth H. Alexander, J. W. Foust, Mary Ann Fortenberry, Ruth McGavock, Raymond Bean, Gaynelle Douglas, Buster Allard, George McReynolds, Lenora Dudley, Wilma Dickerson, Wynona Bomar, Claudine Chitty, Lillus Ruth Ledbetter, Dorthy Crass, Mozelle Stodghill, C. J. Dorrough, Sibl Blair, Mazie Allard, James Long, Lloyd May, Opal Chappell, Iwana Simpson, Perry Thomas, Lois Davis and Annis Fowler.

Credit was given for the kind assistance of the pioneer families of this section: Clyde Thomas, formerly with the Briscoe County News; R. F. Stevenson, who had a private museum; G. W. Lee who through his kind offer helped defray a considerable part of the expenses; and many others whose articles are to be found in the pages of the book. The teacher of the class was A. R. Castleberry.

The town of Silverton was built on land owned by T. J. Braidfoot, familiarly known as "Uncle Tom". Mr. Braidfoot was one of the first settlers of the country and lived here until his death in about 1917. Other of the old settlers of the county were:

J. R. Wright; D. H. Sweeney; J. L. Crawford, father of Miner and Tom Crawford; A. R. Jago, who lived in the Quitaque neighborhood and who was one of the first men to take up large holdings of land in that part of the county, W. H. Savage and A. J. Askey.

Other old settlers of the county were W. A. Rogers, S. P. Huss, G. W. Brown, T. B. Micheal, K. E. Bain, a brother of J. A. Bain. Some of the men who settled the Beverly and Milo communities are R. F. Cope, J. E. Pietzsch, J. N. Montgomery, Sr., Sam Gregory. Old settlers who settled in various parts of the county are Q. B. Brown; Dave and Gid Mayfield; J. H. Hughes; Elf Hanna; J. L. Frances; Ed Burleson; J. C. Whitely; R. Sedkwick; J. H. McClendon; N. M. Dickerson and A. P. Donnell.

FIRST SCHOOLS

It is noted that the early settlers of the county realized the value of an educational system and soon after the organization of the county,, a school building was built. This building was 24x36 feet. The school was taught the first year by John M. Skeen, a brother of Ples Skeen, one of the pioneer settlers of the county. The Skeen brothers also conducted a real estate office in Silverton for a number of years.

The second school was taught by J. W. Beck, a relative of R. Sedgwick. The second year it was found that a larger school building was needed and a two-story wooden building was erected. This building stood until it was replaced by a brick school building in 1911. The old building was torn down by a windstorm several years later.

Practically all of Briscoe County schools were organized on May 10, 1892, although no school was held in some of them for several years due to the fact that this county was very thinly settled at that time.

Silverton School District No. 1 was organized with most of the rest in 1892. Among the first teachers were D. C. Lowe, Eva Wright, and Sena Crawford. The first school house was situated in the southwest part of town and it was later destroyed by fire. The first brick school building, erected in 1911, was used until the early 1920's. Silverton's present high school building was erected about in 1920 at the cost of $100,000.00

Lakeview School District No. 2 was also organized in 1892, among the first teachers were: Mrs. B. C. Cook and Chas. A. Donnell. Their salaries were $46 and $36 respectively. At one time a church was located near the school building, but it was destroyed by fire, and since then the Sunday School and other social affairs have been held in the school building.

This school was named from the

TWO CLASSMATES on an outing in the canyons. They are Mildred Cloyd (Burson) and Alvie Mayfield.

large lake located in front of the building.

Francis School District No. 3 was located about fifteen miles southwest of Silverton. No school was held here until after 1898. The school was named for an old pioneer, Mr. J. L. Francis.

Rock Creek, at one time called Coker, was School District No 4. Its first teacher was B. C. Paco. The first school at Rock Creek was held in January 1892, with a term of four months, and a salary of $40 per month.

Beverly, District No. 6, was organized in 1892, along with the other schools of the county. The first teacher was W. I. McGeHee. MORE MORE MORE MORE MORE We find that later on District No. 5 and District No. 6 consolidated to make District No. 16, which was named San Jacinto.

Heckman, District No. 7 was named after an early settler, John Heckman. Bertha Warner was one of the first teachers for this school, and her salary was $30 per month.

Red River District No. 8, was also organized in 1892 The name was derived from the muddy boundary between Texas and Oklahoma.

McGoughey, District No. 9, was once gnown as Red River, and it was renamed Antelope. This school had a modern brick building and was the center of social activities for that part of the county.

Jago, Common School District No. 10 is at present time Quitaque Independent School District. McGoughey was consolidated with Jago to make the Quitaque Independent School District.

Holt, School District No. 11 was located in the southwestern corner of the county. The first teacher was S. T. Cooper, and his salary was $33.75 per month. This school, too, was named after an old pioneer family. The pupils were transferred to the Lone Star School in Floyd County.

Kent, School District No. 13, was located in the extreme eastern part of the county and was a modern country school, being well-housed in an up-to-date brick building.

Gasoline, School District No. 14, was located in the southwestern part of the county, and was a very efficient school, having a good building and efficient teachers.

Howard, District No. 15, was located on the Howard Brothers land in the Northern part of the county.

San Jacinto, District No. 16, as stated above, was created when Malone No. 5, and Beverly No. 6 consolidated. This school is in operation at the present, housed in a brick building.

year depreciation, the farmer has a choice of three different methods. If the Straight Line Method is used, the farmer subtracts a reasonable salvage value from the

Mr. and Mrs. Robert London attended the funeral for her cousin, Mrs. Lenore Dumas, at Haskell on Thursday of last week.

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Glimpses of Briscoe County History Since 1892

Jago's Store

(from a collection of stories gathered by R. E. Douglas.)

A. R. Jago established Quitaque in 1893 when he built the first store there. The little store was the only one in Quitaque for 10 years, and Mr. Jago handled a general line for the cowboys and the ranchers in the surrounding country. The early mail service for the community was also connected with his name since he was the third postmaster in the county. There were two at the "F" Ranch before the post office was moved to Mr. Jago's store and he became postmaster.

Mr. Jago with his two eldest sons, Ben and Clem, came to the Quitaque Valley in the winter of 1890. His three younger sons, Joe, Bruce and John joined them about three years later. His wife died before they came to this country. The old Jago store was a large one-room structure about 18x24 feet. Later when he applied for the permit for the post office, he built a "lean to" on the east side of the store to house the post office.

The post office was called Quitaque because that was the name given to it by Col. Charles Goodnight when the mail was distributed at the old "F" Ranch, at that time owned by Mr. Coodnight.

Mr. Jago and his sons lived for a time in a half-dugout. They filed on school land and came to own quite a number of sections of land that way. The boys raised some cattle and the father was in charge of the store. After a few years he built a nice five-room house and painted it white. As the majority of houses in the country were half-dugouts, this house was considered very elegant.

While the post office was still at the "F" Ranch there was a mail route from Clarendon to Colorado City. Cann Addleberry. of Clarendon was the mail carrier. He often stopped for the night at the ranch which was his only stop between Clarendon and Colorado City. The cowboys were very fond of him. e always carried the keys to the mailbags and if anyone met him on the route inquiring about their mail he obligingly unlocked the pouches and looked through to see if there was any mail for the inquiring party. He always carried his camping outfit and if night overtook him he made camp just where he was. If a blizzard overtook him he made for the nearest ranch house and "holed up" for the duration of the blizzard. He was the owner of the Addleberry Hotel at Clarendon.

After the Jago store was built a new mail line was carried from Clarendon to Silverton. Clem and Ben Jago carried the mail from Estelline. They would meet half way which was at Turkey Creek, near where the town of Turkey is now located. They would exchange mali bags and ride back to their respective towns. Quitaque being on the route received her mail that way.

On one occasion when John Grundy had a young fellow named Peele carrying the mail, it so happened that there was over $300.00 in cash in the sack that day. Peele made an invisible slit in the sack and stole the money, so it was said. When he reached his destination he turned the bag over to Ben Jago at halfway and turned back as usual. Ben did not notice the hole in the bag until he reached Quitaque. When he found the mail had been robbed, he and his father with a fast team hitched to a buggy, made a quick trip to Estelline to the home of John Grundy. He joined them and gave chase to the fugitive. They caught him and recovered the money. The young man was sent to a reformatory for several years and later became a good citizen. This was unusual for early day settlers were considered very honest.

Up until 1902 Jago's store and residence was all there was at Quitaque. During the fall of 1902 another store and a blacksmith shop, a schoolhouse and three more residences were added.

Mrs. Lucille Graham of Quitaque remembered Mr. Jago and paid him the following tribute: "Mr. Jago was a round little man with snowy hair and long flowing beard and twinkling eyes. He had a very kindly manner and was the nearest approach to Santa Claus I have ever seen. Every child loved him because he treated them with love and kindness, often giving them candy from his one small glass show case. My father moved here in 1901. I was eight years of age. We made a weekly trip to Jago's store for the mail. We settled on Robert's Creek September 1, and Mr. Jago died November 2, yet, in that short time he had won my childish admiration so that I cried bitterly when I heard of his death. I remember feeling a sense of complete loss."

Just before Mr. Jago died he had started a new store building which was purchased by M. C. Potter, who used it for a grocery store. Mr. Potter purchased the old Jago store and remodeled it into a residence which later burned down. Grandmother Rucker's home was

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The Churches of Briscoe County

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Union Sunday School was organized in October, 1891, and held in the school house in the southwest part of Silverton. In 1892, church was held in the courthouse until the spring of 1893, when the church was built. The ladies helped to make the money by giving ice cream and strawberry suppers.

The first pastor was Rev. J. W. Beck.

In 1900 a large revival was held. and Judge Daniel and Mr. Sedgwick got up a collection of $200.00 for an addition to the church. All denominations in the town worshipped together, each receiving one Sunday in the church building. In 1901, the Baptists withdrew and built their own church, and in 1902 the Methodists built.

The charter members of the Presbyterian Church were R. A. Watson and wife, Bob Maxwell and wife, R. Sedgwick and wife, D. L. Landreth and wife, A. P. Donnell and wife, Mrs. Witherspoon, W. A. Sedgwick, Edna Sedgwick, W. W. Reid and wife, and Mrs. Braidfoot.

The church building was sold to the members of Our Lady of Loreto Catholic Church in 1959.

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

The Calvary Baptist Church of Silverton was organized June 4, 1933, with 37 charter members, under the able hand of Rev. W. M. Lawrence, who was called as pastor of said church the same day.

Mrs. Mae Bomar was elected treasurer and H. C. Long, clerk.

The Sunday School was organized the next Sunday, and Ray C. Bomar was elected Sunday School Superintendent.

The church started to work on the church building in August, 1933, completing same in Septembe,r, 1933.

Brother H. L. Burnam was called to pastor the church in August, 1934.

The church was dedicated before it was twelve months old. Brother Lawrence preached the dedication service.

This congregation was later combined with the congregation of First Baptist Church.

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Glimpses of Briscoe County History Since 1892

HISTORY OF THE ROCK CREEK CHURCH OF CHRIST

by Earl Cantwell

(The first in a series of articles.)

The first effort put forth by the people of the Church of Christ was a protracted meeting which was held in the year 1913. This meeting was conducted in a one-room school house which was then located in the Francis pasture.

This effort at bringing the gospel to a new frontier country was brought about through the efforts of two families, Brother and Sis- J. L. Francis and Brother and Sister Stark.

A Brother Kyle Mitchell did the preaching during this meeting and one the following year.

Of course, it is almost impossible to ascertain who all attended, but it is certain that all who lived within "horse and buggy" distance probably came to the services. Some that can be recalled are the Francises, Starks, Burlesons, Wimberlys, and of course, the Montagues.

During this protracted effort there were at least five young people baptized into Christ. They were Louis and Hollie Francis, and the three eldest Stark sisters.

It is to be regretted that this writer did not conceive the idea of a history while the first generation of christians were still alive. It would have been a rare and thrilling experience to sit and listen to the details of the very beginning of what later became the congregation now meeting at Rock Creek.

Even so, it is good to have what information that has been supplied by the descendants of those who have gone.

There is a lapse of time following the gospel meetings in the old Francis school house that is difficult in which to fit the details of just what happened, but we may be certain that the will to serve God did not perish. It is established, however, that the Francis family along with others, traveled all the way to Silverton which was at that time a tremendous distance to attend worship (the church was then meeting in the courthouse at Silverton.)

History moves and with it came other families who were determined to set up housekeeping for the Lord. So through the determined efforts of Brother and Sister W. E. Redin, Brother T. J. Crass, Brother and Sister B. F. Smith, Brother and Sister Bob McDaniel, sr., and Brother Massie, along with others possibly, began regular church services.

They met in the school house. For a while they assembled in the fore noon, but there were other religious people also in the community who decided to have services, so the Methodists and the Baptists began what was then called a "Union Sunday School." They wanted the morning time in which to gather. As a result of this, the brethren changed their time in which to worship to the afternoon. This seems strange now though in that day it was somewhat common as there was but one place available for religious services. There was, of course, some difficulty and anemosity, as is almost always the case when differing concepts of christianity meet head on (and they surely did in the early days.)

This incident seems to be a mild beginning of the persecution that several years later resulted in the school house doors being locked against the church.

This small band of christians thought it wise to have a gospel preacher to hold a meeting. The call was sent to Brother Alva Johnson, who responded by conducting a two week meeting during which there were four baptisms. John Lee Francis, Ava (Holt) Dickerson and Vallie Stark were among those baptised. Others were baptised but it is not certain whether during the first meeting or at a later date. The baptising was done in stock watering tanks at the old Davis place (now the Datis Martin home) and at the Dave Mayfield place west of Rock Creek.

In the year following, others were added to the church through obedience to the gospel. Among these were Sister Dave Mayfield and Sister P. D. Jasper in the year 1917.

The faith of this band of christians manifested itself in many ways as they regularly continued Lord's day services. "Arguing" with anyone at anytime, who opposed the truth as they understood it, they invited all neighbors and made them welcome at the services of the church.

They met once each Lord's day because distance and mode of travel combined to make it a little less than practical to meet together more often.

As to their worship, it was conducted along lines of informality and simplicity with a view only to servign and praising Almighty God, and showing to all who would come, the way of life.

They were poor in this world's goods, but rich in faith and held to the great hope as the "anchor for the soul" which enters to that within the veil.

It was this continuel labor and faith which began to bear fruit in the following years of growth of the church.

(To be continued)

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HISTORY OF THE ROCK CREEK CHURCH OF CHRIST

by Earl Cantwell

PART II

During the first years of the congregation we find other families moving into the community and among these were a few families of devout church members whose coming greatly strengthened the cause.

To name a few whose faith, teamed with the great faith of the first or charter members, who wrought a great influence in the cause at Rock Creek Brother and Sister Kay Brooks, Brother and Sister J. R. Steele, Brother and Sister S. L. Cantwell. These all had large families, and when all the members of the church and visitors came together, it made a relatively large assembly.

Of great interest would be the names of the gospel preachers who aided the church in its infancy. The fact cannot be overlooked that collaborating with the ministers were men and women strong in the faith. They were not weaklings who, when there was no preacher said, "No need to go to church today." These people attended church to worship God. They could not have a preacher all the time so they were called upon to prepare themselves always. There were some great sermons delivered by non preachers. Brother Steele had served as an Elder of the church before coming to Rock Creek, as had Brother Cantwell and perhaps others. Though they were never ordained as Elders, Brethren Redin, Steele, Brooks and Cantwell worked together caring for the church. The church had as its preachers such able men as Brother Ledlow, Alva Johnson, Charlie Graves, Frank Copeland, Charlie Watkins, Tollie Corder, A. F. Thurman. It was during a meeting by Thurman that this writer was baptized in the little old dirt tank on the Gid Mayfield place just off the highway east of the store.

It was at about this time that there was a minor exodus from Rock Creek but fortunately for the cause others placed their membership in the congregation, and it did not suffer from the ones who moved away.

Among those who left was the writer, who with his parents moved to Gunter, Texas, where he finished his schooling at Gunter College. For a few years he was out of touch with the church at Rock Creek, but in 1925 moved back into the area as a young minister of the gospel who periodically preached for the congregation. Since that time it has been both a privilege and a blessing for him to be associated with the brethren, serving as member, minister and one of the Elders.

TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT WEEK

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 1962

Conclusion

Previously it was mentioned of the minor resistance on the part of religious adversaries of the church in which they were forced to change the time of worship from morning to afternoon. This continued for a matter of three years, during which time opposition grew more bitter until finally one Lord's day in 1919 they came to worship and found the schoolhouse locked against them. This did not deter them from their worship. As this writer recalls the events and scenes, there was not even any bitter recriminations at that time for it was worship time. They just made the best of it. As there was not time to go to anyone's house to worship, they proceeded to conduct services on the front porch and yard of the school.

Brother Frank Copeland was there to preach that day. The table was spread on the front porch and the preacher preached just as long as was customary (more than an hour), while the congregation rested themselves as best they could, some sitting on the ground on the blankets that were available (brought for the little ones to sleep on) and some of the menfolk leaned against the walls of the schoolhouse. Having services out of doors was not uncommon in those days, but it was usually by choice and not because

others had denied christians the common right to worship as they chose in their own schoolhouse.

This event, instead of discouraging the church, spurred them on to something which has been a blessing inherited by all who have come after.

Without any delay the men gathered and decided on a bold and then ambitious program, "Let us build our own place of worship," said they. Not one opposed. The land was given by Brother Cantwell and all the others assumed the responsibilities involved. Plans were drawn. Money was raised, and materials put on the ground. Within a week the work was begun and never lagged until the house was ready for occupancy. There was some six weeks between the "shutout" and the entering into the new place of worship. On the Sundays in between the church met to worship in the Cantwell home.

The time soon came when the house was near enough finished to be used. So, in the fall of 1919, the church held its first services in the new building. The floor was not yet laid, nor the walls sealed. The people, however, did not have to sit on the ground, though the seating was none the less uncomfortable, for all had to sit on the bare floor joists. Services went on, and as seemed to be fitting, Brother Copeland was again on hand to preach. It was at this meeting that something else happened that was destined to exert a great influence on the lives of us, for it was at the first invitation extended in the new meeting house that our late, beloved Brother Jasper heeded the gospel call. He lived to become Elder of the church and served as such until his death.

It is easily seen that this persecution served to launch the church on a great effort which resulted in continued growth. Though the building is the same structure, it has undergone many changes deemed expedient by all the church.

Looking at the turn of events, one is made to realize that God's hand is in it all. The old schoolhouse is gone; so are the services of those who sought to put an end to the worship of our church.

Where once the church had assembled once each week, the zeal had grown to the point that a goodly number of the members gathered at other appointed times to further train and prepare themselves for the work of the Lord.

The church has never suffered a division, nor any serious internal strife, but strives always for peace and harmony and to keep the respect of those without.

It has changed from meeting in a borrowed schoolhouse to services in our own spacious building, from the discomfort of the frontier times to the comfort of today's conveniences. From baptizing in stock tanks or any available water we now have our baptistry.

Other changes have led us to appreciate a little less perhaps, the faith of our fathers. Punctuality in beginning may have lessened the tolerance we should have for those who are late. We can but miss a little the ministrations of discipline when mothers spanked the child during services. We would love to hear again the singing in which all engaged whether or not there was perfect harmony, but during which all made melody in their hearts. One even misses a wee bit that slight persecution when the enemies of Christ called christians "Campbellites." It is pleasant to see in our reveries the littlest ones lying asleep on the pallets thus peacefully passing through long sermons. How we who were a bit older longed to lie down also and sleep.

These changes are good so long as they do not lead us into the ways of the drifting relgiious world, nor beyond that which is written.

As the years rolled on people were converted and constantly moved on into other parts of the world, some of course turning back, but many more taking their place in the work of the Lord in whatever place they settled. We feel certain that both God and history has smiled on their efforts, and that they have played an invaluable part in the cause of Christ.

The membership of the congregation seems to remain about the same in numbers. This is good and not bad, for those who understand God's plan know that it is His purpose that we as His children and messengers should go everywhere bearing the word of life. So, from our little congregation at Rock Creek has gone the gospel.

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Glimpses of Briscoe County History Since 1892

The McKenzie Campaign Against the Commanches 1874 - 1875 Related to H. S. Smith by J. P. Brown, Citizen Scout

General McKenzie with a small military force, started from Fort Duncan near Eagle Pass, Texas in 1874. His mission was to invade the Commanche country, subdue the Indians and, therefore, end their wanton attacks on the settlers of the upper Colorado and the Concho Rivers and vicinity.

On his way from Fort Duncan to Fort Concho, General McKenzie gathered additional forces, and on arriving at Fort Concho, his equipment was made to number 2500 men and 125 wagons, mules, horses and supplies with campaign necessities. The greater number of these soldiers were made up of colored men. There were some white soldiers, citizens scouts, and Tonkwa Indian trailers. The names of the Citizen Scouts were J. P. Brown, I. E. Brown, Wash Tankersley, Chas Millin, John Davison, P. R. Clark, J. G. Connell, A. E. Adams, B. W. Lee, and a few others whose names are not remembered.

Leaving Fort Concho with his army, McKenzie made his way northward toward the Plains country, the Llano Estacado, the land of the Commanche, and the home of the Buffalo.

Battle No. 1

The army moved along its course without casualty until reaching Renderbrook Springs. Here, about twenty miles south of the present site of Colorado City, a little brush between the Indians and soldiers occurred just a bit of fun for the boys and the braves. However, the Indians were routed out toward the north with Tonkwa Trailers, Citizen Scouts, and soldiers in their wake.

Battle No. 2

On Tobacco Creek, a head of the Colorado River, McKenzie succeeded in coming up with the Indians. Here a brush somewhat more fierce than before occured, but the Commanches were routed out as before. The Indians here seemed to be banding together, gaining in number.

Battle No. 3

The army pursued, as like the sport of a victor, and at Blanco Canyon overtook the Commanches, who were retreating in apple-pie order. Here quite a fight took place, and through the indiscreation of one of McKenzie's captains a number of soldiers were trapped and killed by the Indians. The redmen had greatly increased in number. McKenzie reduced the captain to the rank of a private. The Indians were routed and the army followed them but it was getting worse all the time.

Battle No. 4

Next the Indians were overtaken at Quitaque, where they endeavored to make a stand; but, failing this, they continued northward along the breaks of the plains. Sometimes they trailed out on the caprock.

Battle No. 5

At the Tulia, or Tule Canyon, the next clash of arms occured. It was very serious for both pursuers and pursued. Here a number of McKenzie's wagons were rendered teamless and all such wagons were burned by order of the general. There were wounded and dead on both sides. The Indians had greatly increased their number and were becoming formidable. Battling was ceasing to be sport any longer, for it was getting to be the real thing. The boys and their mounts were becoming worn out, and it was a cold midwinter too. The army was now short of food and supplies in general. Their diet was straight buffalo meat. Through the face of it all, McKenzie routed the redmen toward the Palo Duro.

Battle No. 6

Two days after the big fight at the Tule Canyon, the Indians were known to be making what proved to be their last stand in the Palo Duro Canyon. They were fortifying by falling the red cedar trees and arranging them in lines of defense and protection.

General McKenzie, formed his own scouting company with the Indian trailers, and the citizen scouts knew just about what Mr. Commanche was doing and how he was doing it. He was not long, therefore, in designing his mode for continued action. It was plain that the longer the delay in resuming the attack on the Commanches the greater or the better he would be prepared to meet it. McKenzie, therefore, on the second or third night after the Tule Creek Battle, built a great number of fires of buffalo chips and other available fuel, as if they were going to spend the night in the camp. Later in the night, the army went out in the direction of the Indian encampment on the Palo Duro. At a point McKenzie

detailed seven hundred of his soldiers with some citizen scouts to cautiously proceed to a hiding place about a half mile above the Indian camp. Here the squad was to remain for further orders unless it should there find opportunity to engage the Indians. The General took the remainder of his army quietly and entered the Canyon just below the Indians. At early daylight the fight was on, white and colored men charged the red cedar fortification and a hand to hand fight ensued. The Indians after a hard fight were forced to flee up the canyon. They were surprised too, by the seven hundred soldiers in hiding, and were turned back in the face of McKenzie. The fight now became a running fight and occupied the greater part of the day. The Commanche warriors were killed to a man, more than two-thousand dead Indians lay scattered over the battle field. About three thousand squaws and children together were taken from their hiding place under the nearby caprock. They were kept unharmed as captives. McKenzie lost three hundred men. Two trenches were dug side by side on the battle ground. The whites were buried in one and the colored in the other. All Indian ponies not desired to be used by McKenzie's men, as well as incapacitated horses of the army, were rounded up just above the battle ground and shot by the General's orders.

This fight forever broke the power of the Commanches. His squaws and children were taken by the way of Fort Griffin to Fort Sill. They were held as ransome for the unconditional surrender of two Commanche Chiefs, yet at large, with small bands. These chiefs surrendered at Fort Sill, and the remnant of the Commanche tribe was placed on a reservation near Fort Sill.

Notes

General McKenzie died in the Soldiers' Home in California.

Horses were shot about a half mile above the battle ground, against a bluff, A squad of 24 men did the work.

The battle ground covered a vast scope of country, during the day's fight, but of course the main part was about the Indian fortification on the Palo Duro.

General McKenzie took the lead in person and had a horse speared from under him in the fight.

The Indian dead were not buried.

The squaws and children were herded like cattle, and bedded at night within a guarded circle. They made the night sound with howls and moanings.

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Glimpses of Briscoe County History Since 1892

PIONEER PEOPLE
By Clyde Thomas

(Written for the June 26, 1925, issue of the Briscoe County News)

A. E. Frieze

Mr. A. E. Frieze came to Briscoe County in the fall of 1891, when the county that is now prosperous and productive was only a vast rolling prairie with antelope and mustang ponies scattered here and there over it.

Coming here from Baylor County, Texas, Mr. Frieze took up the work which at that time was the only profession which flourished here, that of cattle raising. For some eight or ten years he worked on various ranches, spending several years on the LX Ranch north of Amarillo.

At the time that Mr. Frieze came to the county there was only one store here and that carried a very small stock of goods. In the next few years other stores were built and a somewhat larger line of goods carried.

Estelline and Amarillo were the principal trading posts for the people of this section of the country at that time. Most of the supplies came from Amarillo, although it was 20 miles further to Amarillo than to Estelline, the road was better and a better line of supplies were carried by the merchants at that place. Mr. Frieze states that the first time he saw Amarillo it was a small town with scarcely more than 1,000 population. With the elapse of thirty years, Amarillo has become the largest city in the Panhandle and one of the fastest growing cities in Texas.

During his residence in Briscoe County, Mr. Frieze has seen the vast prairies which were once spotted with cattle converted into broad fertile agricultural lands were maize and kaffir grow good, where cotton makes a half bale to the acre and where wheat pays in spite of dry weather. During the early days of the county all the provisions and supplies, building materials and other necessities came from Amarillo or Estelline. Fo some time, Mr. Frieze frieghted between Amarillo and Silverton, and he states that he hauled lumber from Amarillo to build many of the first houses which were built in Silverton.

For several years Mr. Frieze has been identified with the handling of the mails in some way. His first position of this nature was the carrying of the mail between Silverton and Estelline. He drove a team of mules and a hack and made three trips a week.

Following this he spent four years carrying mail between Silverton and Tulia. After this he served as post office clerk for more than a year. Then he was appointed Postmaster for Silverton. At one time the Silverton Post Office was located in a small building which stood where Crawford's Garage is now located. During his residence here, Mr. Frieze has held several positions where he had public services to perform and he has always performed these duties in a way which was satisfactory to the public. He served three years as Mayor of Silverton and has been Silverton's Postmaster for a number of years, having just completed his twelfth year as Postmaster of Silverton.

Mr. Frieze says that it is interesting to note the development through which Briscoe County has gone in the last thitry years. He says that he has seen antelope grazing within the city limits of Silverton, and that it was not uncommon to see bands of wild ponies grazing around almost as close.

Briscoe County has indeed gone through a wonderful development in the last thirty years and where once the mustang, antelope and jackrabbit ran wild, the cattle and sheep graze peacefully and the people, instead of living under the privations and hardships of a pioneer country now live in one of the most prosperous sections of the country.

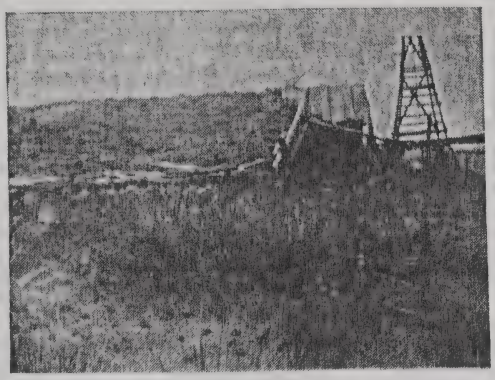
THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 1962

BRISCOE COUNTY NEWS PRESENTS—

1962 NEIGHBOR ON THE JOB ROUNDUP

KNOW the FIRMS ... TRADE with BETTER

Glimpses of Briscoe County History Since 1892



Gid Mayfield came to Briscoe County in 1886 and his is one of the first claims in the county which can be traced. He filed on his land which was located six miles west and two miles north of Silverton. He lived on one half section and bought two and one-half sections more. He built the dugout pictured above just under the ledge of the top bank of a canyon and lived as a bachelor there for four years. He then married and lived in his half dugout seven years more. They got their water from a spring about a hundred yards from the house. He went to Herald, below Vernon, once each year for dry goods and groceries. He drove 150 head of mixed cattle from East Texas to begin his herd.

☆ ☆ ☆

From a series of articles collected by R. E. Douglas.

The homes of the earliest settlers were nearly all half dugouts. They were small, but warm and comfortable. The cavity was made about three feet deep and a wall was then built up about three feet more. The inside wall was made of cedar logs and plastered with white mud. This made the place clean, safe and nice to look at. The outside was built up around the logs with rocks that were plastered together. Either a glass window or a wooden shutter was placed in each side of the room. The roof was constructed in a triangular shape. Three huge cedar logs were placed as beams going lengthwise with the room. Across them were placed side by side, pole after pole covered with dirt. The abode had only one door which, if the dugout was built along a ledge, made the back go into the earth and when opened, one could almost walk straight in, with steps in most cases. This made it necessary to have a little roof projection or a door like a cellar. Many of the dugouts had cook stoves and all used buffalo chips for fuel.

Most of the beds were made of cedar posts. The mattresses were made of gunny sacks stuffed with dry grass. When the grass became broken and packed, the ticks were emptied and refilled with new grass.

The women wore cotton checks in the summer and linsey dresses in the winter. The men wore jeans. Most of the mothers made the children's shoes out of the tops of worn out boots and shoes belonging to the older members of the family. Sometimes the soles were cut from the only available leather and the tops were made from the heavy jean materials.

The first settlers had many hardships. There were no doctors, no roads, no fast means of travel. Their troubles were borne bravely and any illness, death, etc. of one family was felt genuinely by the neighboring family. In case of either, the neighbors for miles would come to do the work and whatever else they could do to help. One instance can be mentioned where two families lived three miles apart. The mother of one of the families was in poor health, so the mother and children of the other walked once each week after their laundry, did the washing and ironing and carried it back for a period of one year.

There was always room for company. The families had bedrolls which they used in case of company and the old saying was true, "There's always room for one more."

The entertainments were few, but the people were happy and enjoyed one another immensely. Once each year they gave a big dance. Families came from miles around in their wagons. A table was laden with food and couples ambled in to eat two or three times before the night passed.

Preaching was done in the homes and the preacher traveled from home to home or settlement to settlement. When the preacher came, the word somehow got around, and the nearest people would come.

By 1890 settlers were swarming into the county. The official business was handled usually in a neighboring county or in the county where the surveyors lived. A few houses sprang up here and almost everybody had wells dug. The dugout reigned supreme for several years more.

When a person died out in camp, or on the trail, he was rolled in his bedroll and deposited as reverently as could be expected when one person was handling the situation.

In the settlements a coffin was made from wagon beds or any available plank. By 1905-06, they made caskets from lumber and lined and covered them with black calico.

A death was never questioned, regardless of why, when or where it occurred.

Lone Prairie Graves

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following was written by Inez Christian Doshier, president of the Amarillo Genealogical Society and originally appeared in the Amarillo Sunday News and Globe, August 14, 1938.)

Pioneering is characteristic of the American people. Something within seems to say: "Move on, explore, achieve, build." Such men are not afraid; their iron bodies hold hearts of gold and a spirit of courage; and so, many were the men who left already settled parts in the days of pioneering and sought jobs out further west. The lure of the West drew them like a magnet. The Texas Panhandle claimed many of these men. Those who remain today, after years of achieving and building, remember those less fortunate. Some of them drifted back—or on; others possibly went down in shame, while a few lost their lives in their effort.

Despite "Bury Me Not On The Lone Prairie," as sung by all cowboys, almost every ranch has some lone grave within its pastures. A double grave on the JA claims the bodies of two of its men, whose lives were snuffed out by one keen flash of lightning while on a fall round-up. This tragic story has been told in verse by Vashti Bourne, and is familiar to all lovers of cowboy songs and ballads.

The round-up was on the Tule, and according to Will James, a regular hand, it was the next to the largest herd he had ever seen gathered on that range. The Tule, famous for its wonderful grass, and doubly blessed as was unusual for top land, by running water, might easily have been the envy of any big rancher for its use as a summer pasture.

The gathering which usually took about two weeks had been done under much difficulty as well as discomfort. Cold fall rains had set in and continued throughout the time. Dark gray clouds hung overhead promising nothing but the steady drizzle which was making the already soaked sod so spongy that horses and cattle moved with much effort. Cowboys, nesters, and ranch men, chilled to the bone, spurred their horses on as they pressed in on this immense herd, gathered at last. There on Burnham Hill—which was more of a Plains highland than a hill—the working of the herd began. The "cut" would be sent to market while the rest of the herd would be put down the trail to winter in the Palo Duro Canyon. Bob Bishop was boss of the Tule outfit. Mitch Bell, wagon-boss of the JA, and his outfit had helped with the entire roundup; and Dick Walsh, general manager of the JA was on hand. The men at the rear of the herd, several hundred yards away, watched the manuevering of man and beast. Skilled hands on trained horses made the cuts which were turned to Bob Christian and Warrener Reid to hold nearby. Forgetting their physical discomfort, they were only aware that the work must go on. There was no quitting until the herd was worked and the cattle delivered to their respective destinations.

The dark, gloomy ceiling above them bore no warning of a tragic interruption. But out of the unknown came an awful clap of thunder followed by a bolt of lightning. Out of the Southwest it shot like a mighty skyrocket across the whole herd, sending out hundreds of litle fiery roots from its deadly main stem. Directly across the herd it angled, at last finding its mark where Bob and Warrener were holidng the ten head of cuts.

Deathly fear gripped every rider, for hardly a horse in the outfit but was shocked to his knees. The men regained composure only to view a tragic scene. Two of them would never rise; they had gone down with their horses and their herd. Bob Bishop, Edgar Britain and Willis Fisher were the first to the spot. Warrener and his horse were killer instantly as the bolt struck the cantle of the saddle, going through clean as if it had been a bullet fired from a 22. Willis Fisher pulled Bob Christian from beneath his horse. The horse for a minute showed some signs of life. Bob looked from one man to the other, and without speaking died in Fisher's arms.

The herd and the work were forgotten as dim-eyed cowboys gathered around experiencing something the West had not taught them. An unusual task of comradship was at hand. Mitch Bell was riding at the rear of the herd and was one of the last to reach the scene. He found Dick Walsh, who had had little experience as general manager, in a state of consternation and bewilderment. Walsh ordered the boys to turn the cattle loose, but Mitch intervened. He told Walsh that he and the JA men would take care of the herd while the Tule outfit buried its men. He also instructed Walsh to send to Tulia and get the best clothes that could be bought for the men and caskets, and leave nothing undone that was his power to do. This advice was well received for the manager and wagon-boss were dear friends, having worked together as regular hands before either received promotions. Bell's sympathetic handling of the situation was appreciated.

It was about 10 o'clock in the morning. No more rain fell—that mighty clap of thunder and lightning was the only one heard during the day; but it, in taking its grim toll, was heard across almost two counties. Being the only thunder of the day, its mighty rumble impressed all those who heard it for miles around.

The bodies were taken to Tule headquarters about ten miles east of Tulia, in Swisher County, and cared for by Fred Scott, a JA man who was assisted by Willis Fisher.

The family of Reid, living at Silverton, was notified; but Christian's family lived over 300 miles away in the postoak hills of Jack County, where they had settled many years before. However, two older brothers, Jim and Will, whom Bob had followed West, were employed by the ranch and were across the canyon to the north. A rider was sent to JA headquarters bearing the news. Jim happened to be there—laid up with a fractured ankle. His horse had fallen with him on the slippery ground while on round-up the day before—otherwise he would have been many miles away with the herd as was his brother, Will. It was the time of the year for round-ups, and they were being made all over the million-acre range. It was October 23, 1895, and by chance, Jim's birthday.

Jim had sat around the ranch house all day, visiting with the cook, De Wall, eating and reading. At about 6 o'clock the lone rider arrived bearing the news of the younger brother's death.

Later it was known that two messengers were dispatched—arriving messenger, Jim Love, who was sent by Dick Walsh, and Charley Parks, who was sent by Mitch Bell. The latter failing to find Jim, returned to the Tule in time for the funeral services.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 1963

sibility, and now, able or not, he had to go to Bob. He had come west when only a lad to find a job in order to help pay off his father's indebtedness and to help educate his younger brother and sisters. His older brother, Paul, who had come with him for the same purpose, was forced to return to help manage at home. And one by one, the younger brothers rode over the horizon seeking jobs on the JA with Jim. Because of the reputable character and ability of the older brothers before them, each was hired. Jim saw that they got good horses to ride, for he cut them from his own string.

A new experience and a new responsibility now presented themselves to Jim. Despite the protests of the cook, a gentle horse was led up beside the tall ranch porch; Jim, donning his slicker and tying on his crutches, mounted—ready to begin that long, painful ride with his messenger, Jim Love, across the canyon and on to the Tule some 40 miles away.

Jim instructed De Wall to get word to Will and send a message home. Will was to meet Jim in Amarillo where the body would be embalmed; and accompanied by them, it was to be shipped home on the Fort Worth and Denver Railroa dto Henrietta, and

from there overland to Antelope.

The sky was still overcast and a slow drizzle set in as these two silent cowboys began their slow trek over canyon trails. Dark soon overtook them. They were familiar with the trails, and so were their horses; but much depended upon their animal instinct to carry them safely across. Jim was unable to get off and give his horse the advantage of the steep climbs as was his custom. They arrived at Tule headquarters about midnight and were met by Dick Walsh and other cowboy friends. A gloomy silence prevailed as they escorted Jim through the old ranch house where the bodies lay. These rugged westerners, pale-faced and their usual quick movements now awkwardly gentle, went to and fro There was little sleep at the Tule that night.

Walsh discussed the tragedy as well as plans for the funeral with Jim. He convinced Jim that, owing to the condition of the bodies, it would be impossible to get Bob's body to Amarillo for embalming as it would take nearly three days by wagon over the spongy sod.

The Reid family planned interment in the Silverton cemetery the following day for Warrener; so Jim decided the only reasonable thing to do was to bury Bob the body to Jack County. He couldn't forget as these plans were made the grief around the old fireside at home, and how his mother would expect him to bring Bob back. She had always depend-

ed on him. He thought, too, of Will, who would wait for him in Amarillo. Jim realized that out of the family of 12, he alone would witness the last rites. "Well," he decided at last, "when it's all over, I'll go home."

Caskets were secured at Tulia, and the next morning a caravan of wagons and men on horseback started for the lonely cemetery at Silverton. The services were held at the double grave that was to claim the two that had fallen together. Reverend Wallace, a young Methodist preacher, conducted the services. Despite the sparse settlement of the country there was a large crowd gathered. The Reids were a highly respected pioneer family, and as one of the cowboys remarked, "Warrener was a prince of a young man, who had a host of friends." Bob was better known among ranchmen than among the settlers, but between the two classes of people, a loyalty prevailed that hardly any other ranch could boast. The men of the Tule agreed that day that they had lost two of the best men in the outfit. The JA men, and a settler, Willis Fisher, held the herd while the Tule men attended the funeral.

And those of us today who enjoy the privilege of the telephone and the service of floral establishments are glad to know that at the burial on that bleak October day there were masses of flowers—not delicate hothouse sprays, but sturdy, colorful bouquets from the Braidfoot yard. The Braidfoots were settlers nearby, and the mother and daughter, Gertrude, felt wholly repaid for their efforts in caring for these plants under the difficulties of pioneering.

The funeral over, Jim returned on the long, hard ride to the JA headquarters. He was sure that Will would come there to learn of the change in plans, which he did the next day. After a brief visit between them, they rode off together—Will, to join the outfit on the plains and resume work, and Jim to catch the first train home.

The parents, brothers and sisters were waiting every hour for Jim's arrival with the body. An open grave waited, and friends and loved ones stood by the bereaved through the long, trying Not until Jim arrived did they know that this younger son had already received interment in the

Panhandle. The family planned at that time to have Bob's body moved later on to the family plot in Jack County, but it still lies today beside Warrener Reid's at Silverton. A special tribute to their memory is always paid them by the Silverton pioneers on Memorial Day.

The funeral expenses were borne by the ranch, and later Mrs. Adair, owner of the ranch, erected a double stone at the grave. It was the request of Mrs. Adair that she be allowed to do this.

AUTHOR's NOTE: For details connected with the above story, I am grateful to the following: Will James, Claude, Texas; Mrs. Wes Lane, Wayside, Texas; E. H. Christian, Claude, Texas; J. T. Christian, Claude, Texas; Mr. and Mrs. Paul Christian, Antelope, Texas; Mrs. Harvie Marks, Perrin, Texas; and Mitch Bell, Clarendon, Texas.

See "Christian - Terrill Genealogy" pg 20 — in Genealogy room Mary E. Bivins Library for letter from Rev. Ed R Wallace (who preached the service for these two men) to Frog Christian Dashier May 1, 1945

On Burnham Hill

'Twas a misty November morning,
Black clouds hung dark and chill
Oer the restless lowing cattle
Gathered on Burnham hill...

On the Burnham hill in Armstrong-
What I do not Know —
But the cowboys at the round-up
Rode swiftly to and fro...

A merry band had gathered
Near a hundred men in all,
Ranchmen, "nestors" and cowboys
At the round-up in the fall...

Bob Bishop was boss of the round-up;
No cowman more skilled on the Plain,
But cold and dreary the work that day,
On Burnham hill in the rain...

Two cowboys Bob Christian and Warrener Reed,
Were holding the "cuts" close by,
When a vivid flash of lightning
Lit the earth and the angry sky..

The red streak quickly vanished,
Like a crimson, fleet-winged bird,
And down fell the two brave cowboys,
Who were holding the "cuts" of the herd.

The horses and men fell together,
Ten cattle around them lay still.
The two cowboys, the toll of the lightning,
Lay dead on Burnham hill...

That one flash of fiery lightning
Was the only one seen that day,
But to the great round-up it carried
Two boys from the wide J.A...

Side by side they fell together,
In one grave together they lie,
Unheeding the grief of their comrades,
Or the oft-times tear-dimmed eye.

Ah, surely in heaven's bright acres
There are ranches long and wide,
Where cowboys, on fleet-footed horses,
Ride the round-ups, side by side.

If in heaven there are large ranches
Where winds scatter wild flower seed,
There we'll find the two J.A. cow-boys,
Bob Christian and Warrener Reed.

By Yashti Bourne
Friend from the Plains.

Printed By —
Avis Christian Nelson

eman, Mary Monroe, Martin and Dianne Davis, companied by Mrs. Bill at the piano, as they sang "School Days" and "May The Good Lord Bless And Keep You."

Grady Martin, president of the graduating class of 1941, reported to the ex-students and ex-teachers in attendance that his class has met obstacles raised by growing up during the depression and graduating just before World War II, and all thirty-eight graduates have come through in good condition. All are living, and the whereabouts of thirty-seven of them is known.

Harley Redin of Plainview, another ex-student, gave the homecoming address. He stated that it should be the aim of all to "encourage our high school students to finish school and go on to college. The apprximate monetary value placed on a college education is $180,000," he continued.

He concluded his remarks by telling the group about his visit to Russia as coach of the United States Womens AAU basketbal team.

Recognized for traveling the furthest to attend the homecoming were Mrs. Edna Christianson o Kingman, Arizona; Mrs. Dea Lowe Fitzgerald of Deming, Nev Mexico, and Mr. and Mrs. Walte Bain of Albuquerque, New Mexic

Early students who were recog nized included Mrs. Ed McMurtry who attended Silverton Schools a early as 1898. Mrs. Frank Gerde Kenneth Bain (1900), Mrs. Ot Wilson (1894), Winnie Wimberl (1906), Theo Cowart Wise (1905 Chris Seaman (1898), Jennie Se man Richards, Prentis Richar (1912), Louis Francis (1907), I T. Northcutt (1903), J. W. (Te Reid 1903), Mrs. Dave Alexand (1892), and Mrs. Gertrude Brai foot Arnold (1892).

Mrs. Dean Lowe Fitzgerald w elected Homecoming Queen ar was presented a corsage. Mr Doris Griffith Marler, Amarill of the Class of 1941, was also nominated as Homecoming Queen.

Mr. and Mrs. George Miller and Mr. and Mrs. Gene Morris attended the Tech vs. WTSC football game in Lubbock Saturday.

W. E. Schott, president of the Ex-Student Association, and Alvin Redin, both of Silverton, are shown welcoming Walter Bain of Albuquerque, New Mexico, a member of the Class of 1922, to the 1962 Homecoming.
—Briscoe County News Photo

BRISCOE COUNTY N

DAY SEPTEMBER 27, 1962 Silverton, (Briscoe County) Texas

lartin Elected President Of Ex-Students Association

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ıvis Rampley presents a corsage to 2 Homecoming Queen, Mrs. Dean tzgerald, during the general assembly udents and ex-teachers held in the high school auditorium last Saturday morning. A number of Mrs. Fitzgerald's former students were on hand to greet her during the day. —Briscoe County News Photo

During the business meeting of the Ex-Student Association held last Saturday morning, Grady Martin was elected to head the association as president, and Donaleta Seaney Garrison was elected to serve as secretary for the coming two years. It was decided that the Homecoming will be held at Silverton High School every two years, on the even-numbered years, on the third Saturday in September.

The meeting was opened with W. E. Schott presiding. The invocation was given by O. C. Rampley, an ex-student and present principal of Silverton High School.

A report on the school today was given by J. S. Hinds, Superintendent of Schools. In his report Mr. Hinds noted that there are 22 teachers in the system this year. The administration, he said, is striving to make this one of the best schools in the area.

Silverton graduates who enter colleges are able to be grouped with the accelerated classes, he continued, which points to the fact that our schools rate with the best of them. The school system is rapidly gaining teachers. Usually it is expected that a school will gain one teacher on the basis of increased population about every three years. We have been able to gain a new teacher each yar, and this past year lacked only six students in the average daily attendance of being eligible for two new teachers.

A group of high school girls, Sharon Weaver, Paula Turner, Jerry Garrison, Sandi Rhode, Jea-

Hometown members of the Class of 1941 of Silverton High School hosted a class reunion Saturday evening. Shown are Joe Montague; Grady Martin, class president; Garland Francis; Bill Long; Roy Mack Walker; Donaleta Seaney Garrison, class vice president; Durene Strickland Nance; and Polly Steele Jarrett. Thirty-eight graduated with the class of 1941, all are living, and the whereabouts of thirty-seven are known. —Briscoe County News Photo

Eighteen Members Attend Class Reunion

The 1941 graduates of Silverton High School met at the Bi-annual Homecoming for a class reunion. Eighteen of the thirty-seven members were present for the occasion.

At a meeting held immediately following the barbecue plans were made to meet again in 1964.

The members attended the football game after which a buffet supper was held in the community room of Plainview Production Credit Association.

Those present were Nona Lee Barnett, Marinez Gammage and Doris Marler, Amarillo; Mayme Lou Harp, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Anita Walls, Frederick, Oklahoma; Lola Fern Gregory, Stillwater, Oklahoma; Claynell Kackley, Odessa; Pauline Jarrett, Donaleta Garrison, and Durene Nance, Silverton; Ardell Joiner, Stinett; Billy Jack Lawson, Kress; John Edd Bain, Lubbock; Garland Francis, Grady Martin, Joe Montague, Roy Mack Walker, and Bill Long, Silverton.

FROM AN EARLY COLLECTION OF PHOTOS is this picture of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Braidfoot in the gateway in front of the Braidfoot Hotel. Gertrude (Braidfoot) Arnold is pictured on the balcony. Others in the photo are unidentified.

Tule Canyon Is Subject of "Tolbert's Texas" Column

In the Sunday edition of the Dallas Morning News, the "Tolbert's Texas" column was entitled, "The Tule Shocked Early Explorers." The column, written by Frank X. Tolbert, is of interest to those living on the canyon's rim:

Tule Canyon, a monster, 1,000-foot-deep, many-colored chasm in the Texas Panhandle, is at once one of this state's most spectacular and least known pieces of real estate. Tule's beautiful sister canyon, Palo Duro, is far more famous, partly because it contains a 15,000-acre state park, while much of the Tule is shielded off from you and I by ranch fences.

Was driving along a Briscoe County road one day last week, and I'd forgotten that Tule was up ahead. Was rolling through the yellow, flat rangelands and then, almost without warning, the road dived off into this great and gaudy rent in the earth which is Tule Canyon.

On the floor of Tule are red and yellow mesas and buttes and other often huge rock formations, carved by wind and water into fantastic and yet somehow artistically orderly patterns.

No one has described Tule more lovingly than old George Wilkins Kendall, a newspaperman for whom they named a Texas county. Mr. Kendall came to Tule in 1841 as a member of the unfortunate Republic of Texas expedition to Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The Santa Fe expedition in 1841 crossed the Tule twice and, apparently, at places not approachable by roadways today.

The Republic of Texas adventurers had climbed up on The Staked Plain or Llano Estacado, the greatest tableland which Kendall styled The Staked Prairie. And he wrote: "Spread before us was a perfectly level plain, extending as far as the eye could reach, and without a tree to break the monotony . . . We were going forward at a rapid pace, the prairies before us presenting no other appearance than a slight undulating but smooth surface when, suddenly and without previous sign or warning, we found ourselves upon the very brink of a vast and yawning chasm, or canyon.

"As the front ranks suddenly checked their onward course, and diverged at right angles, the rear sections were utterly at loss to account for a movement so irregular; they could not see even the edge of fearsome abyss at a distance of 15 yards from its very brink."

Kendall estimated the dimensions of the Tule pretty accurately, "not less tran 800 to 1,000 feet deep" and 300 to 500 yards in width.

The 1841 wandering newspaperman, and his companions, seemed to be bothered more by heights than this 1963 correspondent. For Kendall wrote that as they stood on the brink of Tule " a sickly sensation of dizziness was felt by all as we looked down, as it were into the very depths of the earth . . . In the valley were immense walls ,columns, and, in some places, what appeared to be arches, modeled by the wear of water, and yet so perfect in form that we could have believed that the hand of man had fashioned them."

On the floor of Tule, Kendall saw "a running stream on a lower level of the chasm . . . with a romantic dell, covered with short grass and a few scatterings of cottonwoods." Of the walls and columns in the canyon, he said: "So much of chaste grandeur was there about them, that we were lost in wonder and admiration."

In Kendall's fancy, the Tule formations appeared as "breastworks of a fort, frowning turrets of castles, and cumbruous pillars of some mighty pile . . . Imagination carried us back to Thebes, to Palmyra, and ancient Athens, and we could not help thinking that we were among their ruins."

Charles Sarchet, editor of the Briscoe County News at Silverton, told me: "Everyone raves about Palo Duro, but the Tule is my favorite canyon."

Incidentally, the City of Tulia, Swisher County, was supposed to be named for Tule Creek or Tule Canyon. Only some poor spellers of the 1880's write it "Tullie," and then someone in the postal department in Washington changed it to "Tulia."

Tule Creek and Tule Canyon start in eastern Swisher County, and stream and canyon unite with Palo Duro Canyon and the Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River in western Briscoe County. The long wars with the Comanches and other horse Indians of the Panhandle ended in Tule and Palo Duro Canyons. And while up here I visited some scenes of these passage-of-arms, and will report about this in columns soon.

THE BRISCOE COUNTY NEWS

THURSDAY, APRIL 4,1963

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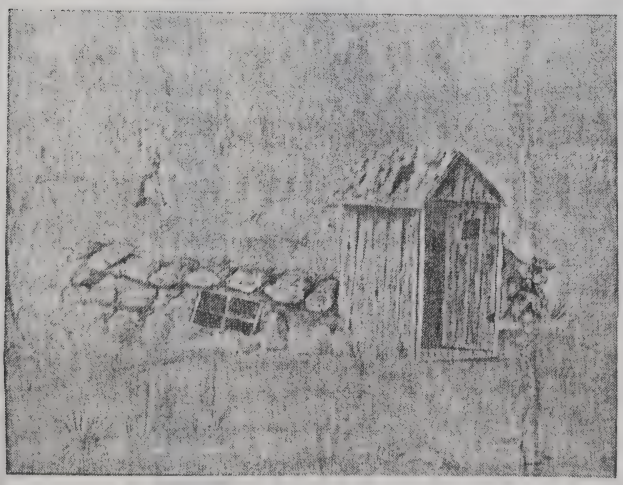
THE OLD McDANIEL HOME PLACE was the subject of the drawing of Jerry Lynn Garrison, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Garrison, which won first place in the Texas Panhandle Heritage Foundation contest recently.
—Briscoe County News Photo



THE GID MAYFIELD DUGOUT was drawn by Becky Thomas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Perry Thomas, jr. as her entry in the Texas Panhandle Heritage Foundation art contest. The drawing was first runner-up among nine submitted.
—Briscoe County News Photo

OF INTEREST TO

Women

Jerry Garrison Wins County Art Contest

The drawing submitted by Jerry Lynn Garrison in the Texas Panhandle Heritage Foundation's Briscoe County art contest was awarded first place by a committee of judges last week. The drawing submitted by Becky Thomas was first runner-up in the contest.

Miss Garrison's drawing was of the old McDaniel home place, located just north of the Rock Creek store on hgihway 86 west of Silverton.

Miss Thomas' drawing was of the old Gid Mayfield dugout, to which her late grandfather, Dave Mayfield brought his bride to live in about 1895. This early dwelling was also located west of Silverton.

Honorable mentions in the contest were also awarded to Jimmy Walker for his drawing of "The Lonesome Trail," and to his brother, Cliff Walker, for his drawing "Red Man's Vanishing Land."

The winning sketch and possibly the sketch of the runner-up will be reproduced in stone as a part of the facade of the outdoor amphitheatre which is being constructed in Palo Duro Canyon.

Mrs. Marvin Montague, Mrs. Charles Wayne Mayfield and Mrs. O. C. Rampley, representing Silverton's three Federated Clubs, made up the county heritage committee, and chose as subjects for the drawings the cap rock escarpment, Los Lingos canyon, and early homesites.

Others whose contest entries were displayed Friday night in the school library were Steve Harvell, Johnny McGavock, Carol Ann Montague, Carron Montague and Kathy Peugh.

Webb AFB Named For Son Of Local Man

(Editor's Note: A recent special edition of the Big Spring (Texas) Herald of Friday, May 17, 1963, in observance of Armed Forces Day, carried stories about the naming and dedication of Webb Air Force Base. A portion of those articles is contained in the following.)

Webb Air Force Base in Big Spring, Texas, is named for a former Big Spring man, 1st. Lt. James L. Webb, jr., whose father, James L. Webb, sr., operates the Silverton Clay Products plant.

Mrs. Rilla Webb, mother of Lt. Webb, has worked at the base since its activation.

Emerging from World War II with 49 combat missions to his credit in the European theatre, Lt. Webb gave his life in a crash off the coast of Japan on June 16, 1946. His father, Mr. Webb, told the Briscoe County News this week that his son was on a mission for which he had volunteered at the time of his death.

Born in Sweetwater, Lt. Webb moved to Big Spring with his parents as a boy, and attended school there and at New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell before going to the University of Texas. He left his studies there to enter the to the Pacific. The war ended and he returned to his civilian life. He never did, however, get flying out of his system and soon he was back in the Air Force.

His P-51 Mustang crashed into the bay while returning from a reconnaisance mission.

Eleven years ago between 15,000 and 20,000 people were on hand at the air base for the open house which marked its dedication to Lt. Webb. Lt. Gen. Robert W. Harper dedicated the base to "the strength of the nation," and Rep. George Mahon, chairman of the House committee on military appropriations, praised those in military service, noting: "If it were not for you, we would be in slavery."

Col. Ernest Wackwitz, the base commander, handed a bronze plaque to the mother of Lt. Webb, whose name the base henceforth was to bear. Today the bronze plate is imbedded in a stone marked near the base flag pole, a solemn reminder of how much a man can give for his country.

On hand for the ceremony as the colors were raised proudly in the crisp breeze, were Lt. Webb's widow, Mrs. Doris Hall, his two children, Karen and James Taylor.

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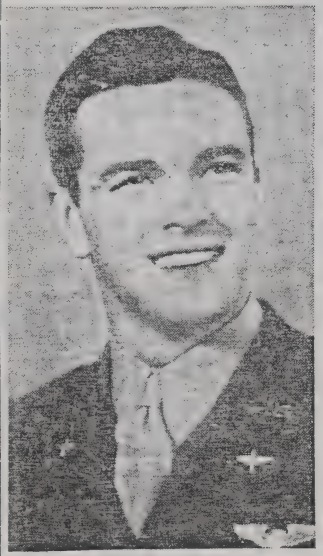

THE LATE
1st. Lt. JAMES L. WEBB, JR.

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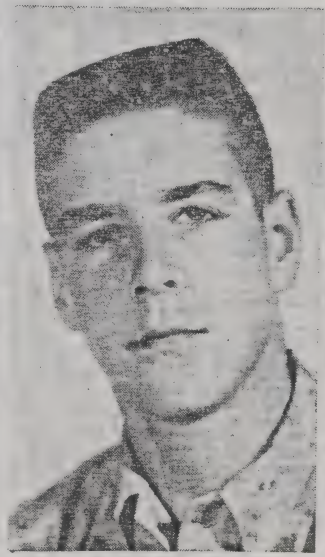

TAYLOR WEBB

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KAREN WEBB

☆ ☆ ☆

On November 12, 1949, an athletic stadium at Itayube, Japan, was dedicated. The name selected was Webb-Byerly Stadium, in memory of Lt. Webb and another Webb was beloved by those who knew him, both in Japan and in Texas.

Karen Webb, who is now 17 years old, was graduated from the one semester in Paris, France, last year while living with two of her uncles who are Colonels in the Air Force. Taylor, 14, is a sophomore in high school at Russell.

A Look At Yesteryear

FIVE YEARS AGO . . .

Sadie Sanders services conducted in Amarillo . . . Ray Thompsons moving into new brick home here . . . Mr. and Mrs. Henry McWatters and Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Long are visiting in California . . . John Schott receives Lone Star Farmer degree. Don McIntyre, Dale McWatters and John Burson serve as delegates to State Future Farmer Convention in San Antonio . . . Tom Whiteley buried here . . . Engagement of Bobby Lou Casey of Lockney to Mr. Walter Bean is announced . . . Mrs. Robert Isbell and children have been visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Barney Stephens . . . Welch families have reunion at Childress . . . Services conducted for Mrs. C. M. Strickland . . . Rev. James P. Patterson, scoutmaster, Mike Mercer, Robert Rhode, Jay Towe, Larry McWilliams and Travis Gilkeyson enjoy camping out at Roaring Springs . . . Beth and Jerry Dee Franklin have been visiting their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Thompson . . . Mary Louise Stodghill celebrates her fourth birthday . . . Mr. and Mrs. Jim Whitfill left early last week for a vacation in Colorado . . . Seay reunion held in Plainview Park.

TEN YEARS AGO . . .

W. G. Byrd family reunion held here . . . Mrs. Melvin Hamilton is complimented with a gift shower in the Vinson Smith home . . . Doc Simpson was in Amarillo last week on business. . . Rev. and Mrs. Porter Arnold of Hurlwood have been visiting their daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Mack Walker and sons . . . Joe Wayne Brooks, Jaye Turner, Teddy Jack Mayfield, Jack Graham, Freddie Hamilton, Guinn Fitzgerald and Fred Kellum receive Lone Star Farmer degrees at State FFA Convention in Fort Worth . . . Robert M. Ledbetter takes over duties of Briscoe County Agent . . . Mr. and Mrs. Jack Zimmell and Jacque Jo of Dial, Texas, have been guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe H. Smith, sr. . . . Miss Lucille Clemmer has returned from a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Bill Swindle in Hart . . . Freddy Stafford is spending his vacation at Hedley . . . Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Davis of Portales, New Mexico, were overnight guests on Sunday with his brother, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Davis.

TWENTY YEARS AGO . . .

Approaching marriage of Miss Lucille Weast and Robert Lee Smith of Lockney is announced . . . Joy Seaney, 10-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elma Seaney, is first to be stricken with infantile paralysis in the Silverton area . . . Mrs. Pearl Simpson has been visiting Mrs. Bill Shives in Tulia . . . Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gamble spent the weekend in Abernathy with relatives . . .Miss Blanche Thompson will receive her degree from WTSC this summer . . . Mrs. Raymond Boman was ill and unable to work at the bank last week . . . Sara Jane Cline spent several days here last week. . . Elaine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ashel McDaniel ...

BRISCOE COUNTY
RSDAY, APRIL 19, 1962
Silverton (Briscoe County) Texas

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James S. Watson

Continued From Page One

Teague, Texas.

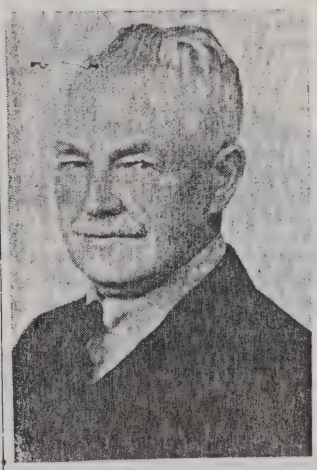
Pallbearers were Noel Deavenport, Don Burson, Pat Northcutt, D. J. Northcutt, Shafe Weaver and Kenneth Sharp.

Burial was in the Silverton Cemetery under the direction of Roberts Funeral Home.

A native of Georgia, Mr. Watson was born January 7, 1872, in Cobb County. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church.

He was married on April 9, 1902, and when the couple celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary in 1952, they held the distinction of being the first couple married in Briscoe County to celebrate their golden wedding anniversary here. Mrs. Watson preceded her [illegible] in March, 1961.

Mr. Watson, at the [illegible] passing [illegible] Obra Watson of Silverton; three daughters, Miss Opal Watson of Amarillo, Mrs. Mary Nettleton of Teague and Mrs. Joyce Richards of Silverton; three sisters, Mrs. Una Burson and Mrs. Ruth Moore of Silverton, and Mrs. Maggie Jones of Alvord; three grandchildren and two great-grandchi[illegible]



JAMES S. WATSON

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Last Rites For James S. Watson

Final rites of respect for James Sidney Watson, a retired farmer, were conducted at 3:00 p.m. Fridal, April 13, in the First Baptist Church in Silverton. Officiating were the Rev. Carlos McLeod, pastor, and the Rev. Norman Nettleton, Presbyterian minister from

Continued On Page Two

Amarillo, Texas

COE COUNTY NEWS

Silverton (Briscoe County) Texas VOLUME 55 NUMBER 25

Welch Reunion Held In Childress

The annual Welch family reunion was held on Saturday and Sunday at the community building in Childress. Mr. and Mrs. Don Cornett were hosts for the occasion. Dr. and Mrs. L. W. McClendo nof Childress were Sunday dinner guests, and the others who attended spent the entire weekend.

Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Claudia Welch and family of Estelline; Mr. and Mrs. Bernice Welch and son, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Devenport, Wellington; Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Welch and daughter, Fort Sumner, New Mexico; Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Welch and family, Shreveport, Louisiana; Mr. and Mrs. Jay Custer, Snyder, Oklahoma; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Childre and son, Liberty; Mr. and Mrs. Mickey Cornett and son, Amarillo; Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Reeves and children, South Plains; Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Welch and family, Mrs. M. L. Welch and Ronald, Roy Lynn and Darrell Long, Mr. and Mrs. Dud Waters and daughter, Walter Lynn Dunham, Mr. and Mrs. Onar Cornett. Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Patton, Wade Welch, Mrs. Faye Bingham and Steve, Kim and Mike Cornett.

It was thought that more relatives attended than have before in the past. Many traveled a great distance to attend, and all are looking forward to the next reunion.

Friday Pony League Sign-Up Deadline

Boys 13 to 15 years of age who are interested in playing Pony League baseball this summer

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